

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FORM NO. 10-1-1

NO. 10-1-1-1

8-56390/27  
8-56391/20

Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 "R" Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Attention Mr. W. G. Wyman, Assistant Director

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your secret memorandum dated November 29, 1951, file SO DB-45820, subject: Michaelas ZIDNIEC. ZIDNIEC arrived in the United States at the port of New York on November 19, 1951 in possession of an immigration visa, seeking admission for permanent residence. In view of the available derogatory information, he was not admitted, but instead was held. He is presently detained at Ellis Island, New York Harbor, pending completion of investigation with a view to determining whether he falls within any of the excluding provisions of Section 1 of the Immigration Act of October 16, 1918, as amended by the Internal Security Act of 1950, or the other "prejudicial entry" classes set out in 8 CFR 175.53.

As you know, if it is determined that subject does fall within any of these excluding provisions and this determination necessarily rests on confidential information of a reliable nature, the statute requires that subject be excluded without a hearing. However, if sufficient derogatory evidence admissible before a Board of Special Inquiry is procured, then subject is entitled to a hearing. The assistance of your Agency (along the line set out below) is requested with a view to obtaining sufficient additional confidential information, or if procurable, admissible evidence, to enable this Service to make its security determination in subject's case.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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Your Agency was furnished a copy of confidential FBI memorandum dated November 10, 1949 addressed to the State Department, subject: NICHOLAS EDUNIC, was., Internal Security - YU. The FBI information, stated to be from a "reliable source," but "unvaluated," indicates that subject was appointed an official of the Foreign Ministry of the Independent State of Croatia in 1942. In a sworn statement executed at Ellis Island December 3, 1951, subject testified that he had been a "tax clerk" in the Yugoslav tax office from 1930 onwards. He stated that after the Germans occupied Yugoslavia, "I was sent from the Ministry of Finance to take care of the tax work in making out payrolls of the employees in the Croatian Foreign Ministry. While I was working in the Croatian Foreign Ministry I was still officially a clerk in the Finance Ministry." He alleges that he began working in the Foreign Ministry in 1943 and worked there until he went to Germany.

Subject's statements to this Service make it appear that he was a mere underling working under orders in the Foreign Ministry. This is contrary to the implication of the FBI's information that subject had been appointed an "official" in the Foreign Ministry of the Independent State of Croatia.

It is requested that your Agency ascertain, if possible, the true facts as to subject's services to the Independent State of Croatia. Your memorandum of January 30, 1950, subject: USTASHA, reference No. 30 CB-21947 (on our file 65-56311/210) indicates that the Independent State of Croatia during the German occupation was headed by ABE PAVELIC, the Ustase leader, and that Pavelic and other leading Ustase were accused as war criminals and Axis collaborators by the post-war Yugoslav government. If subject's connections with the Pavelic regime were of a high order, it may be possible to make out a case against subject as a collaborator of the Axis war criminals under 8 CFR 175.53 (j) and, if necessary, 175.53 (k).

If your Agency can obtain reliable confidential information establishing subject's membership in or affiliation with the USTASHA, or participation as an official in the Pavelic regime, it is requested that your Agency supply a memorandum setting out fully the basis on which Pavelic and his leading USTASHA were found to be, or charged with being, war criminals, and specific information as to when and by what agencies they were so found or charged. If it is possible to obtain any information directly connecting subject with such war criminal activities, it is requested that this information be fully developed.

If, in the view of your Agency, Pavelic's regime can be regarded as "totalitarian" within the meaning of the use of the term in the Internal Security Act, it is requested that you furnish this Service with a memorandum giving this conclusion and, to a reasonable extent, the basis therefor. It is noted that your memorandum, subject: ANDELJA ARTUKOVIC, ANNA MARIJA ARTUKOVIC (date and your reference not known, received August 12, 1949 by this Service) states that the USTASA was the "Croatian Fascist para-military organization analogous to the former Italian blackshirts." Elucidation of this statement, in so far as the Ustasa had official standing during Pavelic's regime, is desired in this connection. Your memorandum also characterizes the Independent State of Croatia as a "Quisling" regime. It is desired that the connection between the State of Croatia and the Nazi government of Germany be more fully explained.

FDP, Aug. 10

The Assistant

According to subject's sworn statement, he was General Secretary of the Croatian Central Welfare Committee in London from April, 1948 until about December, 1949. He is presently a member of the Society of Croatians in Great Britain. A copy of his membership card, which he surrendered to this Service, is enclosed. Subject explained that in every state in Europe there is a Society of Croatians. These societies make up the Croatian Central Welfare Committee. Officers of the Central Committee are at the same time officers of the branch Societies of Croatians. The organization is said to have offices in France, Germany, Italy and all over the world. According to the subject, there is a total membership of about half a million people in these branch societies. He claims that the Croatian Central Welfare Committee engages in no political activities, and that it has no communist or fascist organizational connections.

However, the important fact is noted from subject's statement that a Dr. Branimir Jelic is president of the Croatian Central Welfare Committee. You will observe Dr. Jelic's signature as president of the Society of Croatians in Great Britain on subject's membership card. From subject's statement, it appears that Jelic is a friend to a Dr. Bull and a Professor Darwin Fox. Through these people, Jelic arranged for subject to be employed as a gardener on the farm of a Colonel Whinfield in Chalden, near Alton, Hants, England. Colonel Whinfield is said to have sold his farm and to have gone to South Africa. Thereafter, Jelic arranged through Dr. Bull and Professor Darwin Fox for subject to get a job cutting grass for Golf Links, Ltd.